

Message Text

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45

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OPR-02 A-01 SS-15 NSC-05 NSCE-00

SY-05 SAM-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 SSO-00

CCO-00 INRE-00 OC-06 NEAE-00 PRS-01 IO-13 PM-04 /083 W

----- 064202

Z 191617Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 1225

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN FLASH

RUQMATXAMEMBASSY ATHENS FLASH 7183

AMEMBASSY CAIRO FLASH

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS FLASH

AMEMBASSY LONDON FLASH

AMEMBASSY JIDDA FLASH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART FLASH

USCINCEUR FLASH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 6424

STUTTGART FOR ELG

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AMER, LE, US

SUBJECT: POSTPONEMENT OF BEIRUT EVACUATION

1. OUR SECURITY CONTACT HAS JUST INFORMED US THAT ON INSTRUCTIONS OF YASSIR ARAFAT, EVACUATION PLAN FOR TOMORROW TO PROCEED TO DAMASCUS BY CONVOY MUST RPT MUST BE POSTPONED. ARAFAT STATES THAT CONVOY ROUTE HAS SUDDENLY BECOME UNSAFE NEAR NABATIYA, AND THAT IT WILL TAKE 2-3 DAYS TO RESOLVE SECURITY PROBLEM. UNCLEAR TO US NATURE OF PROBLEM BUT REFERENCE MADE TO PFLP CONTINGENT IN VILLAGE THROUGH WHICH CONVOY PASSES AND ALSO KILLING OF 3 LIBYAN ARAB LEAGUE SOLDIERS ALONG THIS ROUTE.

2. SINCE WE DEPENDENT UPON PLO ESCORT, WE HAVE NO CHOICE OTHER THAN TO ACCEPT ARAFAT'S DECISION AND WE ARE NOTIFYING ADDRESSEES OF POSTPONEMENT EVACUATION. WE WILL BE PROVIDING
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ADDRESSEES BY FLASH SEPTTEL TEXT OF ANNOUNCEMENT TO BE

PUBLISHED IN LOCAL PRESS AND ALSO TO BE TRANSMITTED OVER
VOA AND BBC INDICATING POSTPONEMENT AND GIVING GENERAL
REASON THEREFOR.

3. OBVIOUSLY THERE IS INSUFFICIENT TIME TO GET WORD TO MOST
OF EVACUEES RE POSTPONEMENT IN ADVANCE OF THEIR ARRIVAL
AT COLLECTION POINT. THEREFORE, EMBASSY PERSONNEL WILL BE
AT COLLECTION POINT TO PASS WORD OF POSTPONEMENT.

4. COMMENT. ENTIRELY POSSIBLE ARAFAT'S REQUEST FOR
POSTPONEMENT IS POLITICAL PLOY RELATED TO RUMORS OF US-SYRIA-
MARONITE-ISRAELI SCHEME. (YESTERDAY PLO SECURITY CONTACT
ASKED OUR PERMISSION, WHICH WE TURNED DOWN, TO MAKE PUBLIC
ANNOUNCEMENT IN OUR NAME DENYING AUTHENTICITY OF THESE
RUMORS.) IN ANY CASE, WE SHOULD KNOW FACTS OF MATTER IN
COUPLE OF DAYS. WE ARE STAYING LOOSE.
SEELYE

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Message Attributes

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